(d) whether such accredited agencies were permitted to instal own computer terminals and issue tickets with information of journey; and

(e) if so, what are the criteria for accreditation?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Rail Travellers' Service Agents have been appointed in various cities for purchasing tickets and securing reservation etc. from the Railway Reservation Office on behalf of the passengers by standing in the queue like a normal passenger.

(b) the terms and conditions for apointment of Rail Travellers' Service Agents are given in the Authorisation of Rail Travellers' Service Agents Rules, 1985 notified under Statutory Order No. 881(E) dated 5.12.1985 published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II Section-3 sub-section(ii) dated 5.12.1985 as amended vide Statutory Order No. 771(E) dated 30.7.1987 published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II Section-3 sub-section(ii) dated 13.8.1987 and Statutory Order No. 331(E) dated 1.7.1992 as published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II section-3 sub-section(ii) dated 26.5.1993.

The main conditions for appointment of these agents are as under:—

(i) Applicant should be in possession of the latest Income Tax Clearance Certificate;

(ii) Applicant should be having office and premises properly maintained with adequate conveniences and amenities in the city so as to accommodate the visit of sufficient number of customers; and

(iii) Applicant should not be convicted in a criminal case involving moral turpitude.

The fees on payment of which the licence shall be issued or renewed shall be Rs. 1,200/-and Rs. 600/- for any additional licence in the same station.

The Security deposit on furnishing of which the licence shall be issued or renewed shall be Rs. 5,000/-in cash and a Bank Guarantee for Rs. 15,000/- in addition. There shall be no accural of interest on the said deposit.

The duration of such licence is of 3 years and it is renewable after that.

(c) The records required to be maintained by the RTSAs in accordance with RTSAs Rules 1985 are inspected by the Competent Authority from time to time and licenses of the RTSAs are suspended/cancelled wherever irregularities are detected.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

रेल दावा न्यायाधिकरणों में रिक्तियां

422. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) रेल दावा न्यायाधिकरणों में सदस्यों एवं अध्यक्षों के कितने पद कब से रिक्त हैं तथा प्रत्येक न्यायाधिकरण में कितने दावे दो वर्षों से अधिक समय से लंबित हैं;

(ख) वर्ष 1992-93 से लेकर 1996-97 तक इन न्यायाधिकरणों में कितने सदस्यों एवं अध्यक्षों की नियुक्तियां की गई तथा कितने नाम कब से विचाराधीन हैं; और

(ग) उक्त न्यायाधिकरणों में मृत्यु एवं दुर्घटना के कारण विकलांगता के दावों की संख्या का न्यायाधिकरण-वार ब्यौरा क्या है?

रेल मंत्री (श्री राम विलास पासवान): (क) सदस्यों के चार नव सृजित पद 2 तकनीकी और 2 न्यायिक फरवरी '97 से रिक्त पड़े हैं तथा इन्हें भरने के लिए कार्रवाही शुरू की गई है। प्रत्येक पीठ में दो वर्षों से अधिक समय से लंबित दावे संबंधी मामलों की संख्या नीचे दी गई है:—

पीठ का नाम	दावे संबंधी लंबित मामलों की संख्या
दिल्ली	356
लखनऊ	465
जयपुर	04
गोरखपुर	577

पीठ का नाम	दावे संबंधी लंबित मामलों की संख्या
चंडीगढ़	724
मुम्बई	1364
नागपुर	103
भोपाल	342
अहमदाबाद	941
कलकत्ता	5449
भुवनेश्वर	43
गुवाहाटी	757
पटना	264
चेन्नई	339
बेंगलूर	381
सिकंदराबाद	169
एर्णाकुलम	062

(ख) अध्यक्ष-1 उपाध्यक्ष (न्यायिक)-2, उपाध्यक्ष (तकनीकी)-2, सदस्य (न्यायिक)-16 और सदस्य (तकनीकी)-17, इस समय कोई नाम विचाराधीन नहीं है।

(ग) मृत्यु और घायल होने के कारण दावों की संख्या का पीठवार ब्यौरा निम्नानुसार है:—

पीठ का नाम	मृत्यु संबंधी मामलों की संख्या	घायल मामलों की संख्या
दिल्ली	22	08
लखनऊ	49	18
जयपुर	03	02
गोरखपुर	39	22
चंडीगढ़	09	12
मुंबई	06	03
नागपुर	06	06
भोपाल	19	13
अहमदाबाद	04	04
कलकत्ता	08	08
भुवनेश्वर	13	06
गुवाहाटी	19	04
पटना	106	12
चेन्नई	19	02
बेंगलूर	04	08
सिकंदराबाद	69	15
एर्णाकुलम	24	13

Railways Services in the North-Eastern States

423. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to improve the Railway services in the North-Eastern States; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Provision of passenger amenities and improvement of train services including introduction of trains is a continuous process depending upon traffic justification, resource availability and operational feasibility. During the year 1997-98 the following train services have been/is being provided serving the North-Eastern States

1. 4055/4056 Delhi-Dimapur Brahmaputra Mail has been extended to Dibrugarh Town.

2. 2423/2424 New Delhi-Guwahati Rajdhani will be extended to Dibrugarh Town on a weekly basis.

3. 6511/6512 Bangalore-Howrah weekly express will be extended to Guwahati.

4. 5659/5660 Howrah-Guwahati Kamrup Express will be extended to Dibrugarh Town.

5. An overnight service will be introduced between Guwahati and Tinsukia.